

Return to Learn Updates

Lexington City Schools

August 11, 2021



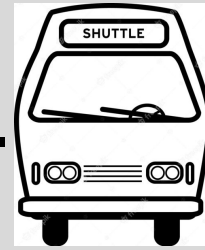
Goals for our Return to School plans:

- ❖ We are hopeful that our plans for the new school year will allow for the following:
 - Providing a safe learning and work environment for everyone in our schools
 - Keeping our students, staff, and families as healthy as possible
 - Keeping our schools open for in-person learning

- ❖ We ask for your cooperation, your patience and your understanding as we do the very best we can to support these goals.



UPDATE on Shuttle Bus Services -



- ❖ We are very excited to share that we will be able to offer shuttle bus services starting the first day of school. Thank you to Mr. White for his work securing drivers for this year.
- ❖ Parents must fill out a bus permission form in order for their student to ride the shuttle bus.
- ❖ We will allow regular bus capacity.
- ❖ All riders and the driver must wear a mask while on the bus per CDC mask mandates for public transportation, including school buses and vehicles.

School Meals -



- ❖ As a reminder, school breakfast and lunch will be offered **FREE of charge** to all students during the 2021-2022 school year.
- ❖ Schools will continue with the “grab and go” breakfast program for the year.
- ❖ To start the school year:
 - Lunch will be served in the cafeteria with physical distancing in place at LDMS.
 - HWES classes will rotate week-to-week eating in the cafeteria or eating in the classroom or outside with their teacher.
 - Thank you to our school nutrition team and teachers for their flexibility and support!

Health and Mitigation Strategies -



- ❖ LCS will monitor community transmission, testing, vaccination coverage, and outbreaks when making modifications to our health and mitigation strategies and to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.
- ❖ **Current Planned Mitigation Strategies:**
 - **Daily self-screenings** conducted at home for all staff and students.
 - Maintain **3-ft. distancing** to the greatest extent possible in all settings and extended distancing with physical activity
 - Promote **hand washing, hand sanitizing, and respiratory etiquette**
 - Promote **outdoor learning and eating** as much as possible
 - **Clean and disinfect** high touch surfaces throughout the day
 - **Limit non-essential visitors** to school

UPDATES: Health and Mitigation Strategies -



Healthy Schools

❖ Definitions of Contact Tracing:

- In the K-12 school setting, a student is not considered a close contact if the student is 3-6 feet or further away from a student who has tested positive if both students are wearing masks and other school mitigation measures are in place. Current mitigation measures should keep the need to quarantine students at a minimum.
- The previous definition of *close contact* definition still applies for adults. If an adult is closer than 6ft. for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, the adult is considered a close contact. The exception -- if fully-vaccinated, the adult must wear a mask for the next 14-days, does not have to quarantine, but must take a Covid test 3-5 days after exposure. If negative, the adult may resume regular activities. If positive, the adult must isolate.
- LCS will continue to communicate with staff and families whenever a positive COVID case occurs within the district.

UPDATES: Masking at school -

- ❖ At the July 21 school board meeting, our *Return-to-Learn* plan stated that our schools' current plan was to follow the CDC guidelines that were in effect on July 21 with regards to masking in schools. We also announced that changes may be necessary if local data or guidance from the health experts changed in the meantime.
- ❖ Since this time, the CDC guidance changed on August 4th for K-12 schools announcing: *Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, the CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.*
- ❖ On August 5th, Governor Northam issued a reminder that all public school divisions are legally mandated to implement CDC guidelines, in accordance with Senate Bill 1303.
- ❖ The school board's attorney has confirmed that Va. Code requires school boards to follow "currently applicable mitigation strategies" provided by the CDC.

UPDATES: Masking at school -



Healthy Schools

- ❖ Lexington City Schools will plan to follow the CDC guidelines/recommendations. This includes universal masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status.
- ❖ This is a change from our previously published plan dated July 27, 2021.
- ❖ This requirement will apply to all back-to-school events scheduled prior to the first day of school.
- ❖ LCS will continue to update our plans throughout the school year as guidelines/recommendations or local data necessitate change. We will communicate these updates with families as they occur.



Covid-19 Monitoring -

- ❖ As a reminder, all plans are subject to change based on local numbers, updated guidance from local health experts, VDH, and CDC.
- ❖ A temporary transition to virtual instruction for a group of students may be necessary in response to case numbers and transmission at that particular school.
- ❖ We appreciate your cooperation and efforts to support the health and safety of all members of our community.

